

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
American Positions	295	295	313	18
Funds	43,213	44,722	46,700	1,978

Program Description

The U. S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is responsible for the overall management and administration, including planning, of Commission programs and facilities. The Commissioner manages the execution of the USIBWC mission, which is to exercise U.S. rights and obligations assumed under U.S.-Mexico boundary and water treaties and related agreements in an economically and sound manner and to develop bi-national solutions to water and boundary problems arising along the 1,952 miles of border between the United States and Mexico. This region encompasses the four U.S. states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California and the six Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California. In addition, the Commissioner seeks to resolve current and anticipated boundary and water disputes between the United States and Mexico in the best interest of the American public.

The IBWC is made up of the United States Section (USIBWC), headquartered in El Paso, Texas, and the Mexican Section (CILA), headquartered in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Both sections have field offices along the boundary. In accomplishing the IBWC's mission, the U.S. and Mexican Sections jointly exercise the provisions of existing treaties to improve the water quality of the Tijuana, Colorado, and Rio Grande rivers and resolve border sanitation problems. The Commission also applies the provisions of these treaties and agreements to equitably distribute the boundary rivers water to both countries and for the operations of international flood control projects along trans-boundary rivers, international reservoirs for conservation of Rio Grande water and for hydroelectric generation, and international wastewater treatment plants. The IBWC also has the responsibility to establish and maintain the boundary in the limitrophe section of the international rivers and demarcate the land boundary. Most projects are developed jointly by the USIBWC and CILA, requiring interdependence for full implementation of those projects.

Administration

The USIBWC is staffed to address domestic and international issues and administer agreements relating to the distribution and delivery of international waters in the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers, protection of lives and property from floods along bordering communities, border demarcation, and water quality and quantity matters. The USIBWC has authority to perform its own administrative activities, including human resources management, budgeting, procurement, finance and accounting, payroll, and property management. These activities are performed using established internal control procedures within local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The USIBWC has advanced information management service capabilities and contracts out the data processing of the financial, payroll, property management, and acquisition functions with a Financial Management Center of Excellence via a cross-service agreement.

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Engineering

The Engineering Department performs the strategic planning, program and project planning and management, environmental management, engineering, and construction functions for the agency. This is provided through its three divisions: Master Planning, Environmental Management, and Engineering Services. The technical services provided include, but are not limited to, preparation, review, and execution of environmental studies, cultural and natural resource investigations, water quality monitoring and assessment, data management, Geographic Information System (GIS) management, trans-boundary resource studies, hydrology and hydraulic studies, geotechnical investigations, engineering designs for new construction and renovation of buildings, hydraulic and flood control structures, hydroelectric power plant infrastructure, wastewater treatment plant infrastructure, and environmental mitigation. It also provides quality assurance and technical expertise during construction of projects.

Operations and Maintenance

The Operations Department operates and maintains all river and reservoir structures, hydroelectric power plants, and international wastewater treatment facilities. It is responsible for demarcating the border between the United States and Mexico by maintaining the integrity of boundary markers along the land boundary, river channels along international river boundaries, and boundary buoys on international reservoirs. The Operations Department also conducts all international water accounting in close coordination with Mexico.

Justification of Request

The FY 2013 budget request of \$46.7 million reflects an increase of \$2 million above the FY 2012 enacted level and includes increases for American COLA, and domestic inflation. This level also reflects a realignment of the Heavy Equipment Program (\$1.2 million) and 18 USDH positions from IBWC's Construction account to the Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account in support of IBWC administration, operations and maintenance. The FY 2013 Budget supports \$7.7 million for Administration activities; \$3.5 million for the Engineering activities; and \$35.5 million for the Operations activities.

Administration

The FY 2013 budget request of \$7.706 million for this activity will provide an increase of \$183,000 above the FY 2012 enacted level. This increase covers American COLA and domestic inflation increases.

The Administration program oversees existing treaties and agreements for the solution of international boundary and water problems. It also involves reaching new agreements, subject to approval by both governments, to mitigate problems arising along the boundary before they become serious bilateral issues.

The primary functions are administering the operation and maintenance of ten international boundary and water project offices, negotiating agreements and providing recommendations to both governments for solutions to boundary and water problems, and supporting and controlling new construction projects approved by the two governments.

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Engineering

The FY 2013 budget request of \$3.507 million for this activity will provide an increase of \$89,000 above the FY 2012 enacted level. The covers increase for domestic inflation.

The Engineering activity funds one Principal Engineer, a number of other engineers, environmental scientists, and technical and clerical staff who are responsible for the development, planning, design, and management of projects, and for conducting engineering surveys, studies, and investigations needed to address international boundary and water problems with Mexico in accordance with IBWC treaties and agreements.

FY 2013 Engineering Department plans to continue:

- Monitoring the quality of the waters in the New River and Alamo River (in southern California near Calexico) and the Colorado River (near Yuma, Arizona);
- Conducting natural resources management and monitoring of the Rio Grande flood plain in cooperation with U.S. and Mexican agencies;
- Conducting compliance studies and monitoring of three international wastewater treatment plants: Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Nuevo Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- Implementing the Falcon Reservoir Cultural Resource Management Plan per the Texas Historical Commission requirement;
- Performing coordination, resolution of technical issues, quality assurance, and government representation for flood control levee improvements in the Upper and Lower Rio Grande;
- Coordinating and conducting hydrology and hydraulic capacity studies in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation and discuss design capacity changes with Mexico;
- Developing a bi-national mainstream hydraulic model from the Northerly International Boundary to the Gulf of California;
- Participating in joint water quality programs for the observation of the biological, mineral, chemical, and toxic quality of the international river waters;
- Developing the Environmental Management System for USIBWC field offices;
- Developing a management plan for the Rio Grande Rectification Project segment;
- Implementing restoration measures along the New Mexico stretch of the Rio Grande per the 2009 Record of Decision, which includes design and construction of restoration enhancements and acquisition of land and water rights for the project;
- Developing spatial data in support of strategic plan activities through the GIS Program;
- Participating and supporting trans-boundary aquifer data collection and coordination activities;
- Preparing strategic planning annual plans and reports;
- Developing, tracking, and updating capital project plans to meet mission goals and objectives;
- Conducting community outreach efforts and working closely with other agencies to comprehensively address river flood control, sanitation, boundary demarcation, and other bi-national problems at border communities;
- Reviewing, processing, and issuing licenses, leases, and permits for proposed projects on IBWC property;
- Performing the coordination and acquisition of easements for environmental enhancements as a result of impacts from the construction and operation of river flood control systems;
- Performing verification surveys for proper demarcation of the international land boundary, and addressing encroachments across the boundary; and
- Performing Right-of-Way and precision level monitoring surveys for mission projects and activities.

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Operations and Maintenance

The FY 2013 budget request of \$35.487 million for the Operations and Maintenance activity represents an increase of \$1.706 million above the FY 2012 enacted level. \$137,000 is for COLA and domestic inflation increases, \$1.2 million realignment of the Heavy Equipment Replacement Program from the Construction Account to the S&E account. The primary function of heavy equipment is to support the Operations & Maintenance functions, thereby fitting best under the S&E account. Also included is \$114,000 for the realignment of the Boundary and Realty program from Operations and Maintenance Division to the Engineering Department, and \$255,000 for associated annual service maintenance costs related to the Federal Personnel and Payroll System (FPPS) consistent with eGov initiatives planned for FY 2012. Currently, the USIBWC initiates and processes personnel actions manually. Therefore, budget requests for Heavy Equipment will no longer be made in the Construction Account starting in FY 2013.

This activity funds one Principal Engineer, a number of other engineers and technical staff, clerical staff and wage grade employees who are responsible for the operations and maintenance of USIBWC facilities along the entire U.S.-Mexico border, which includes ten field offices.

FY 2013 Operations Department plans to continue:

- Maintaining all flood control, wastewater treatment, hydroelectric, and water storage projects in fully operational condition;
- Performing operations and maintenance of the two International Wastewater Treatment Plants, and ensure compliance with all recurring maintenance requirements;
- Identifying ways to increase operations and maintenance efficiency while reducing costs;
- Implementing the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) program, which involves installation of high priority security equipment per CIP agency requirements;
- Conducting water accounting activities in an accurate and timely fashion; and
- Conducting annual OSHA Safety inspections at all USIBWC facilities.

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Activities	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Administration	7,269	7,523	7,706	183
Engineering	3,303	3,418	3,507	89
Operations and Maintenance	32,641	33,781	35,487	1,706
Total	43,213	44,722	46,700	1,978

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Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
1100 Personnel Compensation	14,409	14,912	14,814	(98)
1200 Personnel Benefits	4,610	4,771	4,938	167
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	574	594	593	(1)
2200 Transportation of Things	577	597	585	(12)
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	4,086	4,229	3,549	(680)
2400 Printing & Reproduction	44	46	45	(1)
2500 Other Services	15,917	16,473	18,143	1,670
2600 Supplies and Materials	1,675	1,733	1,812	79
3100 Personal Property	1,080	1,118	1,980	862
3200 Real Property	0	0	40	40
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	241	249	201	(48)
Total	43,213	44,722	46,700	1,978